

\$250,000 PAID FOR A GAINSBOROUGH

Painter's Masterpiece, Portrait of Ann Ford Thicknesse, Comes to This Country.

PICTURES HER FULL LENGTH

Viola da Gamba, Which Played Part in Painter's Life, Is in Canvas.

New York, December 17.—An American collector has bought for approximately \$250,000 Gainsborough's masterpiece, a full-length, seated portrait of Mrs. Thicknesse, which once sold for \$300,000 in England. The purchase was made through Scott & Fowles, who brought to this country Turner's "New for the Painter," bought by an American collector for about \$200,000. The Gainsborough was formerly in the collection of the late Charles Wertheimer, and was obtained by Mr. Scott last summer in London. It arrived recently. The picture's history savors of romance. It was comparatively unknown until discovered by Mr. Wertheimer's London home. In quality it has been compared to Gainsborough's "Mushroom Girl." The portrait bears the full signature of Gainsborough, and is inscribed with a dedication to Governor Thicknesse. It portrays the Governor's third wife when she was Miss Ann Ford. In the background is the viola da Gamba, which played an interesting part in the painter's life story. It is believed to have been the cause of the painter leaving Bath for London. The instrument was much coveted by the artist, who once offered 100 guineas for it. The instrument was finally given to him at a musical entertainment in the Governor's house, on the understanding that he would paint Thicknesse's portrait as a companion painting to that of his wife. Gainsborough was so transported over the gift that he is said to have remarked: "Keep me hungry, keep me hungry! Do not send the instrument until I have finished the picture." There is a certain dash in the painting of the attractive subject that suggests the French artist. It bears the impress of spontaneity, and the texture of the gown is rendered most effectively.

ANOTHER WAR SCARE

Newspaper Discovers Plan of England to Blow Up Wilhelmshaven. Cologne, December 17.—The Rhenish Westphalian Zeitung publishes a story of an alleged discovery of a plan on the part of Great Britain to blow up Wilhelmshaven. The Zeitung professes to have received its information from one of the best informed officials, who said the postal authorities, being suspicious of repeated money orders in favor of deck officers and chief masters, finally seized some of the letters passing through the postal department. These showed that the plans to the entrance to Wilhelmshaven war harbor, as well as plans of the water supply and the contents of the secret code book, had been betrayed to the British admiralty.

The paper points out that with such information at its command Great Britain could blow the entrances to the harbor utterly useless and Germany at the mercy of the sea. To prevent the threatened danger, the Zeitung continues, a German squadron remained for weeks on patrol duty. Recent conferences between the Em-

peror, the Minister of Marine, the chief of the admiralty staff and the chief of the Marine Department dealt with this matter.

Regarded as Romance. London, December 17.—The story that the British admiralty has secured plans of the locks and water supply and the secret signal codes of Wilhelmshaven, with the idea in event of war of blowing up the harbor entrances and thus bottling up the German fleet, is regarded here as a mere romance. The story is supposed to have been betrayed by German officers to the Rhenish Westphalian Zeitung, which is strongly anti-British and the organ of the war material trade.

EDITORS FOR COLLEGE PUBLICATION SELECTED

Annual Will Be Issued by Trinity Students—Degree Conferred on President Few. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Trinity College, Durham, N. C., December 17.—Last Saturday night the governing board of the college annual met and elected the officers for the publication, and since that time work has been progressing as fast as possible. Those elected to the office are Claude Bennett, editor-in-chief; W. H. Muse, business manager; James Cannon, Jr., and N. I. White, assistant editors, and H. L. Wilson, assistant business manager. On account of too much other work, Mr. Muse was forced to resign, and A. S. Brower was elected business manager in his place. Those elected met Wednesday night and appointed the assistants and departmental editors. As yet the name for the annual has not been selected, but a contest has been offered, a prize to the man proposing the best name for it. The name will be selected by the governing board, which is composed of representatives from the various organizations, who are financially responsible for its publication.

President William Preston Few returned from Georgetown, Texas, where he delivered the address at the inauguration of Dr. Charles M. Bishop, president-elect of the Southwestern University. While there Dr. Few was honored by having the honorary degree of doctor of laws conferred upon him by the university, together with two other college presidents of some note—President Frank K. Sanders, of Washington College, Topeka, Kan., and President S. E. Mazes, of the University of Texas. The Hesperian Literary Society held its quarterly election of officers last Saturday night, resulting in the following men being named: President, V. L. Scott; Vice-President, W. E. Eller; Clerk, Claude Bennett; Secretary, W. T. Rusk; Treasurer, James Cannon, Jr.; Marshall, T. W. Lee; Chairman of the Executive Committee, F. W. Terrell, and members of the Annual Board—Quinton Holton, Claude Bennett and W. A. Cade. The Glee Club returned to-day from a successful trip through the Eastern part of the State. Rev. J. M. Culbreth, who until recently was a member of the Oklahoma Methodist Conference, has transferred his membership to the North Carolina Conference, and is pastor of the Mangrove Street Church, Durham, and in addition to his pastoral work he has registered as a member of the senior class of the college.

EXTRA! GIRL BABIES TALLER

Hot News Flight of the Wire From Boston. Boston, Mass., December 17.—Girl babies are now born taller and with more intellect than ever before in the case, according to an authority in this city. Miss Charlotte W. Dunn, assistant superintendent of a hospital here patronized by the stork to the extent of 3,000 births a year, says: "We have noticed that girl babies are getting taller and that they are appearing in this world later with more real vitality than formerly. The boy babies continue on the average both in weight and height."

GIRL GRADUATE FORGER BY SYSTEM

Marries at 17 While a Trusted Bookkeeper and Then Her Misdoings Become Known.

New York, December 16.—Anna B. Gifford, a seventeen-year-old graduate of a public school in East Seventy-fifth Street, was locked up in the East One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street station house last night on a charge of forgery and grand larceny. Attached to the complaint against the young girl, who, in spite of her tender years, is married, are checks which she is alleged to have forged to the amount of \$150. Records of other forgeries are produced, the checks for which have been destroyed, according to the girl's confession to the police, amounting to approximately \$2,000.

All the forgeries were done in July, August and September of this year, during which time Mrs. Gifford, then Miss Anna Croly, was employed by Herbert N. Chute, a carpenter and builder, with offices and factory at 13 East Eighty-sixth Street. The forgeries ended on September 20, when Miss Croly eloped to Jersey City with Joseph Gifford, a young man from New London, Conn. She had met him on August 10 at Coney Island while spending the proceeds of forged checks, her father at the time of the elopement at 331 East Seventy-sixth Street.

Miss Croly voluntarily gave up her position as bookkeeper and stenographer in order to begin housekeeping with her young husband, and he has worked hard to maintain the home. She did not hear of her husband's arrest or her confession until several hours after she had been locked up.

Her former employer was so overcome by the girl's confession, made without the slightest trace of embarrassment or regret, that he could not speak. The girl's father was heartbroken, and after restoring her mother, who had fainted, he sobbed with her. At the East Eighty-eighth Street Police Station, he saw his daughter for the first time, but he could only stammer her words to him.

The girl was dressed in an expensive blue serge gown with fur trimmings. She laughed and chatted with the doorman, who kept watch over her until the charge had been entered in the blotter, and then stepped with a policeman to the patrol wagon to go to the East One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Station, where there is a matron and cells for women. The policeman who arrested her said that rarely had they ever "booked" so becoming a girl or one whose composure was so hard to disturb.

As to what she did with the money the girl claims to have used for the purchase of a new dress, and for the which she repeated time after time in response to cross-questioning. She had spent it in Coney Island with a girl friend named Daisy Roberts, of 23 East Seventy-sixth Street. She had bought herself expensive dresses with it, and had bought her girl friend many good things, but no clothing. She had never brought any home, and her parents knew nothing of her forgeries or the funds derived from them. No one had instigated the forgeries, she steadfastly said.

Checks arriving for the firm from persons having open accounts were deposited by the young bookkeeper in the bank. She would then draw a check made payable to herself, signing the name of Mr. Chute to it, and the exact amount of the check deposited. At the end of each month, when she went to the bank to get the return checks, she would take from the bundle her forged checks, tear them up, and "doctor" the books so the receipt of the checks from customers would be disguised.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast: Virginia—Fair Monday and Tuesday; but much change in temperature. Heavy showers. North Carolina—Fair Monday and Tuesday; moderate northwest winds.

Special Local Data for Yesterday.
12 P. M. temperature..... 47
5 P. M. temperature..... 45
Maximum temperature up to 8
P. M. temperature..... 47
Minimum temperature up to 8
P. M. temperature..... 41
Mean temperature..... 44
Normal temperature..... 44
Excess in temperature..... 4
Deficiency in temperature since March 1..... 104
Accum. excess in temperature since January 1..... 25
Deficiency in rainfall since March 1..... 6.13
Accum. deficiency in rainfall since January 1..... 6.46

Local Observation 8 P. M. Yesterday.
Temperature..... 41
Humidity..... 69
Wind, direction..... N.E.
Wind, velocity..... 11
Weather..... Clear

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES.				
(At 3 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.)				
Place.	Ther.	H.T.	L.T.	Weather
Ashville	36	38	36	Cloudy
Atlanta	40	50	38	Clear
Atlantic City	38	48	38	Clear
Boston	40	42	40	Cloudy
Buffalo	32	36	30	Cloudy
Calgary	18	28	18	Clear
Charleston	54	60	54	Cloudy
Chicago	38	28	28	Clear
Denver	30	32	16	Clear
Duluth	22	26	18	Cloudy
Galveston	50	52	46	Clear
Hatteras	50	58	50	Cloudy
Havre	22	28	22	Clear
Jacksonville	56	60	56	Rain
Kansas City	40	44	30	Clear
Louisville	44	40	34	Clear
Montgomery	50	56	42	Clear
New Orleans	52	64	44	P. cloudy
New York	38	48	44	Clear
Norfolk	44	50	44	Cloudy
Oklahoma	40	48	36	Clear
Pittsburgh	36	38	26	Cloudy
Raleigh	44	52	44	Cloudy
St. Louis	36	38	30	P. cloudy
St. Paul	24	26	24	Snow
San Francisco	52	54	48	Clear
Savannah	52	56	52	Cloudy
Spokane	34	34	28	Cloudy
Tampa	62	68	62	Rain
Washington	38	44	38	Clear
Winnipeg	12	16	12	Snow
Wynetteville	28	38	28	Clear

MINIATURE ALMANAC.
December 18, 1911.
HIGH TIDE.
Sun rises..... 7:31
Sun sets..... 4:58
Morning..... 3:17
Evening..... 4:51

TREASURE HOARD IN PEKING PALACE

Enough Gold There to Pay China's Foreign Obligations for Several Years.

London, December 17.—The European financial world watches the developments in China with keen interest, but without any serious fear that the financial obligations entered into by the imperial government will be repudiated. For whatever be the ultimate political outcome, the party in power will need the assistance of the outside world, and a refusal to meet present obligations would not help toward obtaining further loans. Consequently Peking reports of the government's disposition to suspend the sinking fund for China's foreign loans is held to require confirmation. Dr. George Ernest Morrison, the famous Peking correspondent of The Times, continues in this connection to point out that there is an abundance of money in the Chinese treasury to meet all foreign obligations. The palace hoard, he says, is much larger than it is generally believed to be, although about half a million sterling from it was recently sold to foreign bankers. During the foreign military occupation of Peking in the year following the Boxer outbreak of 1900, the palace treasure was guarded by foreign troops, first by the American soldiers belonging to the command of General Chaffee, and in their withdrawal by British soldiers detailed for this duty by General Gazelee.

The treasure was stored in a quarter of the palace near the northeast corner of the Forbidden City. Why this care should have been taken of this treasure of state by the belligerent powers, says Dr. Morrison, is one of the many mysteries associated with that time of international jealousy.

There is strong reason for believing that this hoarded treasure amounted in value to nearly 19,000,000 (\$45,000,000). The whole of it was restored to the Chinese intact.

On the return of the Empress Dowager from her flight to Sian-Poo the palace treasure was largely added to, for the wily old woman displayed no gratitude for the services rendered to her by the foreign powers in protecting her treasures, but pleading that the palace had been looted in the absence of the court, reaped a rich harvest of money contributions from the patriotic and from the sale of titles and offices in all parts of the empire.

It is quite certain, says Dr. Morrison, that the gold and silver now stored in the palace must be sufficient to meet all of China's foreign obligations for several years.

Some of the gold just sold to foreign banks was packed in sealed boxes, with inscriptions showing that they had been remitted from Canton in the seventies. They had never been opened. No treasure remitted to Peking during the last thirty years has yet been touched.

There is greater wealth in the Peking Palace, Dr. Morrison says, than was found in the Yildiz Kiosk after the fall of Abdul Hamid.

BELIEVES CONGRESS WILL PROTEST DRY TERRITORY.

Bristol, Tenn., December 17.—Representative E. Sells, of the First Tennessee District, who is at home from Washington to spend a few days with forestry department inspectors now investigating East Tennessee lands, expresses the belief that Congress will pass at this session a measure to restrict the interstate shipment of whiskey. He said:

"I find a growing sentiment in favor of temperance legislation among the members of the lower House, and an effort will be made by certain members to frame a measure that will give 'dry' territory protection from the indiscriminate method of shipping now in vogue. In the bill there will be a section to prevent the indiscriminate issuance of government liquor licenses in 'dry' territory."

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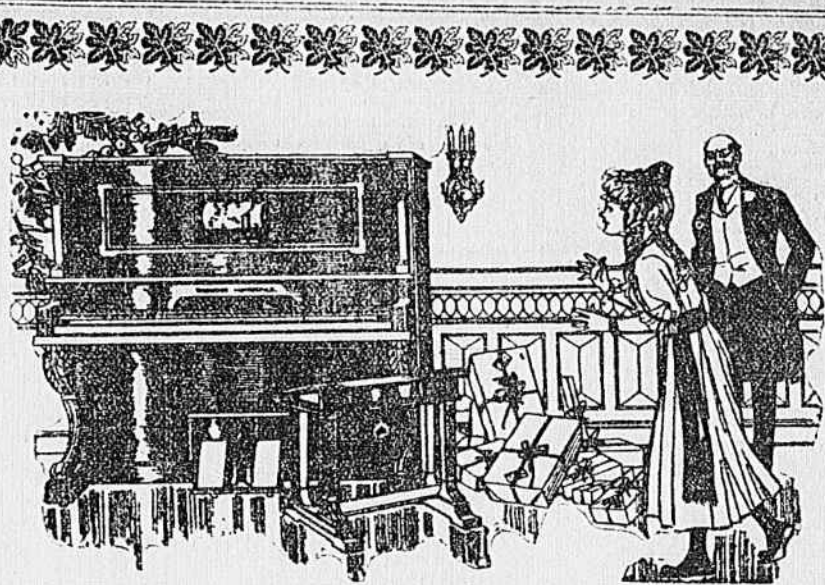
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For Christmas--The Pianola Piano

A GIFT THAT THE ENTIRE FAMILY WILL ENJOY

The head of the family is often puzzled to know what his wife and children most desire for Christmas—what gift above all others they would select if they had their free, untrammelled choice. Sometimes he solves the problem by giving money and letting them select their own presents.

It is most significant that in former years it has sometimes happened that the sale of the Pianola Piano has been greater the week following Christmas than the week before. The Christmas checks have been used to purchase this instrument, showing conclusively the real preference of the recipients.

The Pianola Piano is an ideal gift, because each and every member of the family derives real personal pleasure from it. All can play it without any previous knowledge of music, and thus participate in one of the keenest forms of human enjoyment—the fascination of personally producing music.

For the Wife

The Pianola Piano gives the wife the pleasure of renewing her acquaintance with the pieces she "used to play," and also of performing many compositions that were beyond her ability even when her technique was at its best.

For the Daughters

If there are daughters in the family taking music lessons, the Pianola Piano is a perfect piano for hand-playing. It is the highest type of piano for keyboard playing, and in addition they have the incomparable enjoyment of immediate access to all music.

For the Sons

The Pianola Piano provides a new and powerful interest in the home. Evenings which might otherwise be less profitably spent will be occupied in playing over the latest and brightest of the current music—the light opera hits, college songs and newest dance music.

For the Children

The Pianola Piano is of supreme importance in teaching children appreciation and love of music. It arouses an interest in music lessons by first arousing an interest in music. It shows what perfect technique is, trains the ear and encourages them to keep up their practice.

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SCHOOL INQUIRY MAY BE DELAYED

No Chance Now to Take It Up Until After the Christmas Holidays.

Because of the delays due to special meetings called in connection with the form of government ordinances, it is now expected that the proposed investigation of the methods of conducting the public schools will be postponed until after the holidays. The joint resolution authorizing the appointment of a special committee to hold this inquiry comes up in the Board of Aldermen tomorrow night for concurrence, and as the investigation is jointly recommended by the Ordinance, Charter and Reform Committee and by the School Board there seems no doubt of concurrence. The petition of the elementary teachers for an increase in pay is now pending before the Committee on Finance, but inasmuch as later petitions have been filed by the High School teachers and those of the primary grades, it may be that all will be taken up together. A general resolution for an increase of 10 per cent. all along the line may result.

While this is not anything like as much as the women teachers of the elementary schools ask, or even what the Ordinance Committee has recommended, it is pointed out that were that increase alone granted it would practically disrupt the teaching force at the High School, as it would result in paying teachers in the elementary grades more than is now paid to highly trained special teachers in the upper grades of the High School.

QUIRK CONFESSION NOT NOW BELIEVED

Junction City, Kan., December 17.—With the release of Rev. C. M. Brewer, of Olustee, Okla., proceedings in the Fort Riley dynamiting case seem to have come to a sudden end. The military authorities claim that the release of Mr. Brewer and of Mrs. Anna Jordan is a severe setback to the case. Private Michael Quirk, who confessed to the dynamiting, and the other five members of his company arrested are still being held at the post. The belief that the Quirk confession was given merely that his long solitary confinement might be terminated gains ground here.

Friends of Mr. Brewer and Mrs. Jordan do not believe the charges against them will be pressed, although it is maintained that new warrants will be issued at once.

RUMOR CURRENT THAT ACCORD IS REACHED

London, December 18.—Special dispatches from Paris and Téhéran give the rumor that an accord has been arrived at between Russia and Persia through the conferences which the Russian foreign minister, M. Sazonoff, had in Paris with the Persian minister, but according to the Téhéran Paris Temps correspondents there is apparently well founded rumor that unless Persia accepts all the conditions of the ultimatum by December 21 the Russian troops at Kashin will march on Téhéran.

HARLAN FORECAST BRITISH UNION

He Also Denounces Recall of Judges in Letter Just Made Public.

Washington, December 17.—A remarkable letter by the late United States Supreme Court Justice John M. Harlan, of Kentucky, was given posthumous publicity yesterday, in which he declares that, in the end, Great Britain must come to a union of states or dominions; also that no people will put the recall of judges into their fundamental law are fit to enter the American union of States.

The letter was written by the eminent jurist August 12 last, while at his summer home on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, only sixty-three days before his death, to a young friend. Several extracts from it were read at the Harlan memorial exercises in the United States Supreme Court chamber by Blackburn Esterline, of the Department of Justice, who has been representing the government in recent cases before the new Commerce Court. Mr. Esterline did not make public the name of the young lawyer to whom the letter was written, and merely read the extracts to illustrate Mr. Harlan's capacity for letter writing and portray his colossal mind.

Commenting on British affairs, these words appear in the Harlan epistle: "The passage of the veto bill in Parliament practically wipes out the House of Lords as a power in England. We have no more governing by titles and heredity. This is good. In the end, Britain, if it is to last, must have a union of states or dominions, with local Parliaments to deal with domestic matters and a general Parliament to deal with imperial or empire matters. Mr. Harlan in the same letter shifted

from British affairs to those of the New World, and continued:

"I hope that the President will put his foot down firmly on the recall of judges in Arizona and New Mexico, while in territorial condition. It is one thing for these people, after becoming States, to amend their Constitutions and provide for the recall of judges. It is quite a different thing for Congress to give its sanction to the principle of the recall by admitting these Territories into the Union with Constitutions providing for the recall of judges.

"No people it seems to me, are fit to come into the Union as States who are willing to put the recall of judges into their fundamental law.

"Whether a particular Territory shall be admitted into the Union as a State is a matter of discretion with Congress. That discretion should be exercised so as to maintain sound principles that are recognized as such by Anglo-Saxon people.

"Upon the question whether the recall of judges is Republican in the constitutional sense, I express no opinion; for that question may come up for judicial determination. I only speak of the recall as a matter of public policy, and that far I may appropriately go."

TEN BODIES REMOVED

Knoxville, Tenn., December 17.—Ten bodies were removed from Cross Mountain Mine at Briceville to-day, leaving eight more in the mine. To-day's removals bring the total of identified dead up to seventy-seven, while the total number of victims is estimated at eighty-four or eighty-five.

The funeral of Mayor Thomas Watts, of Coal Creek, prominent in the work of relief for the Briceville sufferers, who met death Friday morning, was held to-day. Mrs. Watts has been confined to a hospital for a week as a result of an operation for appendicitis, and at her request the funeral services to-day stopped at the hospital, the coffin was removed from the hearse and carried by the pallbearers into the hospital that Mrs. Watts might have a last look at the features of her dead husband.



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